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2 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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4 At present time when jewelers create a pair of earrings, they
5 have to make a usually non-reversible decision about the method by
6 which the earrings are going to be attached to the ears. The
7 earrings are either made to be used on pierced ears or made to be
8 used with clips. A common solution for this problem has been to
9 create one or more pairs for pierced ears and one or more pairs to
10 be clipped. If the jeweler is good at estimating future demand,
11 he/she will create the correct amount of pierced and the correct
12 amount of clipped to satisfy his/her customer demands. But, as we
13 all know, with this estimation it is very difficult to be precise,
14 and even more so if the earrings are going to the market for the
15 first time. When the earrings are expensive, the estimation
16 becomes very important. A jeweler having the right customer and
17 the right earrings, but the wrong ear attachment becomes very
18 frustrated when he/she loses business solely because of this
19 factor. The jeweler has to make the earrings for one type of
20 earring attachment and hope that he/she has made the right
21 decision.

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23 To overcome these shortcomings of existing options, the
24 present invention is developed to produce an effective means to
25 facilitate the creation of earrings with the right type of ear
26 attachment all the time. The invention described here will provide
27 simple means of creating different kinds of earring attachments.

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29 The flexibility of our universal earring clip device will
30 ensure that no matter what the customer needs as an earring
31 attachment this need is met. This is accomplished because the
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1 universal earring clip device easily conforms to the customer's
2 needs with a minimum of effort on the jeweler or person assembling
3 the earrings for the final customer.

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5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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7 The present invention is a device for facilitating the setting of
8 the ear attachment method on earrings. Examples of ear attachment
9 methods are: a post (A pin-like finding attached to an earring.
10 It passes through the pierced earlobe, and may be held in place
11 by a back) depicted in figure 1 number 11, a clip-back (works
12 like a hinge to secure the earring to the earlobe) depicted in
13 figure 2, a European wire (A curved wire which passes through the
14 earlobe of a pierced ear and clasps shut) depicted in figure 3,
15 and a hook ear wire (A fishhook-shaped finding with the hook end
16 passing through the pierced ear) depicted in figure 4. This is
17 not an exhaustive list of clipping methods, but a list of the most
18 common ones today.

19 The device in this invention is comprised of a universal female
20 clipping connector and a variety of male clipping connectors. The
21 universal female connector is attached to the back of the earring
22 (depicted in figure 5 number 3 and in number 6 figures 6 and 7),
23 by means of soldering or gluing it to the earring. This is the
24 only process the manufacturer has to do with the earring. The
25 earring designer should be aware of the size and position of the
26 universal female connector while designing his/her earring. The
27 earring with the universal female attached to its back can now be
28 shown to the customer depicted in figure 5 number 1. Once the
29 final user of the earring selects the ear attachment method that
30 he/she is going to want on the earrings, the jeweler then will
31 select the male clipping connector that implements the customer
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selection.

1 The jeweler will then proceed to insert the selected male
2 connector into the universal female connector and lock it in
3 place. To lock the male connector in place, a pin-like rod
4 (depicted in figure 1 number 20) is inserted through the aligned
5 holes of the universal female connector and the selected male
6 connector, then bent to lock in place (depicted in number 5
7 figures 6 and 7). This will create the earrings wanted by the
8 customer as well as the desired ear attachment method. If the
9 customer changes his/her mind and decides not to buy the earrings
10 or wants a different ear attachment method, all the jeweler has to
11 do is unlock and remove the male connector from the universal
12 female connector, leaving the earring ready to receive another male
13 connector. The locking mechanism described in this specification
14 is an example of a variety of mechanisms that could be used.

15 Other mechanisms that could be used include: a universal
16 female connector that has the threads of a nut and the male
17 connector with the matching threads of a bolt that can be
18 tightened together; a universal female connector with a hole that
19 locks by inserting the male connector latching part through a
20 spring-lock mechanism.
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22 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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25 Other objects and advantages of the invention will become
26 more apparent from the specification taken in conjunction with the
27 accompanying drawings, in which:

28 Fig 1 is a perspective view of a universal female connector
29 and a male connector that implements the post method for attaching
30 an earring to an ear.
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attachment, therefore the attachment would be done, for example, by soldering or gluing the universal female connector to the earring. The universal female connector depicted in figure 1 is of a general cubic form in which one of the sides is left hollow and the other sides form an empty cube, which is the female connector's receptacle. The side that is attached to the earring (numbered 2) is solid and opposite to the side (numbered 3) which is an empty side that, together with all the other perpendicular sides (numbered 4, 5, 8 and 9) to this side, generate the female receptacle of the universal female connector. The universal female connector has on two of its opposite sides (numbered 4 and 5), holes (numbered 6 and 7) that are horizontally aligned. Below one of the holes and following a perpendicular line from the top is located the closing receptacle (numbered 10).

The male connector is of a general cubic form in which one of the sides is left hollow and the other sides form an empty cube (figures 2, 3, 4, and 1 number 11) comprised of a top side on which the specific attachment method is implemented (figure 2 number 2, figure 3 number 2, figure 4 number 2, figure 1 number 17), two perpendicular and opposite sides (figure 2 numbers 8 and 9, figure 3 numbers 8 and 9, figure 4 numbers 8 and 9, figure 1 numbers 14 and 15), and two other perpendicular and opposite sides (figure 2 numbers 3 and 4, figure 3 numbers 3 and 4, figure 4 numbers 3 and 4, figure 1 numbers 12 and 13) having holes (figure 2 numbered 5 and 6, figure 3 numbered 5 and 6, figure 4 numbered 5 and 6, figure 1 numbered 19) that are horizontally aligned.

Once a male connector is selected to implement a desired attachment method to the ear, this male connector is attached to the universal female connector already attached to the earring as

1 depicted in figure 6. Figure 1 depicts a male (number 11) and a
2 female connector (number 1). To attach the male connector (number
3 11) to the universal female connector (number 1), align the four
4 sides of the male and female connectors (align number 5 with
5 number 12, number 14 with number 8, number 4 with number 13 and
6 number 9 with number 15. Insert the male connector (sides number
7 12, 13, 14, and 15) inside the female receptacle until the two
8 holes on each side of the male and female connectors are aligned
9 (hole 6 is aligned with hole 19, hole 4 is aligned with hole on
10 side 13). Then insert the closing pin (numbered 20) starting on
11 the hole (the aligned hole made of number 4 and the hole on side
12 13) from the opposite side where the closing receptacle (numbered
13 10) is located and slide said pin across until a portion of said
14 pin is showing outside the hole of the opposite side (align hole
15 of number 6 and 19). With a set of pliers or such instrument,
16 pull the pin (number 20) to make pressure on the whole connector
17 structure and bend said pin downward and away from the top,
18 placing the bended side of said pin inside of the closing
19 receptacle (number 10). Once the pin is inside the closing
20 receptacle, bend the closing receptacle as embracing the pin, and
21 securing its position (depicted in number 5 figures 6 and 7).

22 The disclosure of the invention described herein-above
23 represents the preferred embodiment of the invention; however,
24 variations thereof, in the form, construction, and arrangement of
25 the component thereof and the modified application of the
26 invention are possible without departing from the spirit and scope
27 of the appended claim.

28 I claim:

- 29 1. A device for setting different ear attachment methods on
30 earrings; said device is comprised of a universal female
31 connector and a plurality of removable and selectable male
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